



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Office of Public Affairs  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
<http://www.dot.gov/briefingroom>

## BTS Data

BTS 24-16

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

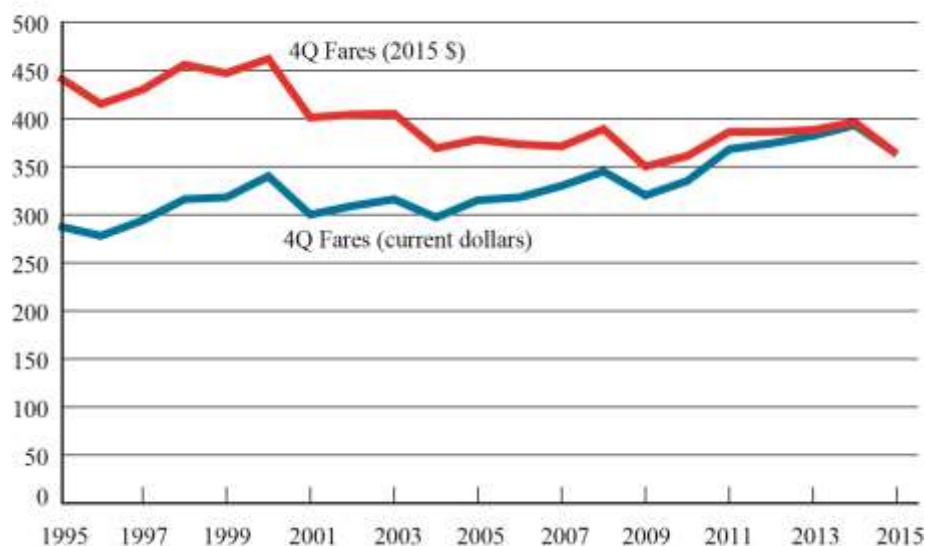
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### 4th-Quarter 2015 Air Fare Data

The average domestic air fare decreased to \$363 in the fourth quarter of 2015, down 8.3 percent from \$396 in the fourth quarter of 2014, falling to the lowest level since 2010, adjusted for inflation (Table 1), the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) reported today.

Figure 1. U.S. Average Domestic Fares, 4th Quarter 1995-2015



Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [BTS Air Fares, Origin and Destination Survey](#)

BTS reports average fares based on domestic itinerary fares. Itinerary fares consist of round-trip fares, unless the customer does not purchase a return trip. In that case, the one-way fare is included. One-way trips accounted for 33 percent of fares calculated for the fourth quarter of 2015. Fares are based on the total ticket value, which consists of the price charged by the airlines plus any additional taxes and fees levied by an outside entity at the time of purchase. Fares include only the price paid at the time of the ticket purchase and do not include fees for optional services, such as baggage fees. Averages do not include frequent-flyer or "zero fares." Constant 2015 dollars are used for inflation adjustment.

### **Inflation-Adjusted Air Fares**

Fourth-quarter fares rose 10.2 percent from the recession-affected low of \$350 in 2009 to the fourth quarter of 2011. From 2011 to 2014, fourth-quarter fares rose 2.4 percent before the 8.3 percent decline to 2015 (Figure 1, Table 1).

The fourth-quarter 2015 fare was down 14.4 percent from the average fare of \$462 in 2000, the highest inflation-adjusted fourth quarter average fare in the 20 years since BTS began collecting air fare records in 1995. The 14.4 percent decline took place while overall consumer prices rose 34.9 percent. Since 1995, inflation-adjusted fares declined 10.8 percent (Table 2). See [BTS Air Fare web page](#) for historical data.

U.S. passenger airlines collected 75.0 percent of their total revenue from passenger fares during the third quarter of 2015, down from 87.6 percent in 1995 (Table 1A). Third quarter 2015 is the most recent available data.

### **Annual Fares**

The average fare of \$377 for the [full year 2015](#) was down 3.8 percent, inflation-adjusted, from the 2014 average fare of \$392 but down 19.2 percent from the inflation-adjusted annual high of \$467 in 2000. The 2015 annual fare was the lowest since \$365 in 2010.

### **Quarter-to-Quarter Change**

Fourth-quarter fares were down 2.5 percent from the third quarter of 2015, dropping to the lowest inflation-adjusted level of [any quarter](#) since the fourth quarter of 2010 when the average fare was \$361.

Following the post-recession fare increases, average fares were at least \$383 in every quarter until dropping to \$372 in the third quarter of 2015 and \$363 in the fourth quarter (Table 3).

### **Unadjusted Air Fares**

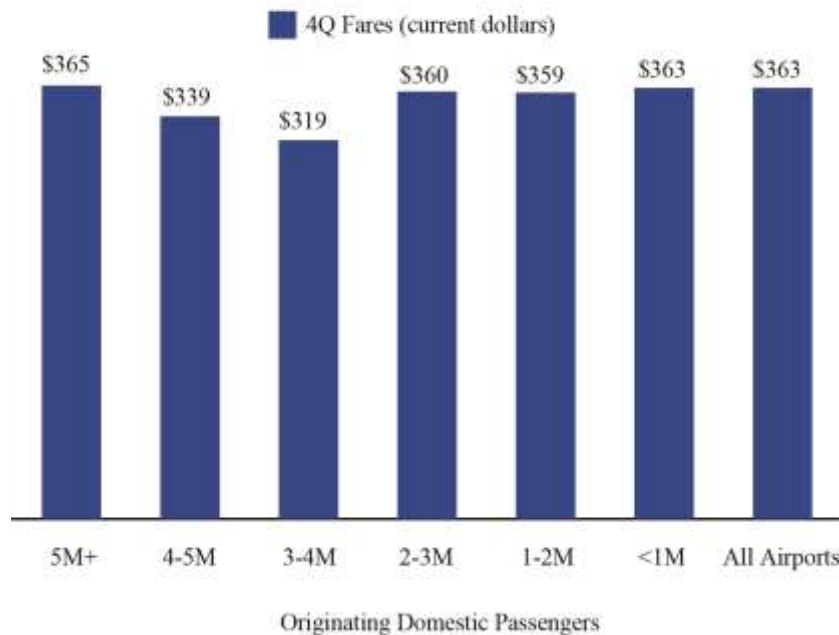
The \$363 fourth-quarter 2015 average fare was down 7.7 percent from the fourth-quarter 2014 fare of \$393, which was the highest average fare for any fourth quarter since 1995. Since 1995, unadjusted fares rose 26.0 percent compared to a 53.0 percent increase in overall consumer prices (Table 4). Fourth-quarter 2015 fares were down 2.5 percent from the third quarter of 2015, dropping to the lowest unadjusted level since the third quarter of 2012 when the average fare was \$367 (Table 5). Fourth quarter 2015 fares were down 8.5 percent from the all-time unadjusted quarterly high of \$396 in the third quarter of 2014.

### **Unadjusted Annual Fares**

The average fare of \$377 for the full year 2015 was down 3.7 percent from the 2014 average fare of \$391 which was the adjusted annual high. The 2015 annual fare was the lowest since \$375 in 2012.

## Fares by Airport

Figure 2. Fares by Airport Group based on Originating Domestic Passengers 4Q 2015



Grouped by the number of originating passengers in the fourth quarter of 2015, the 15 airports with more than 5 million originating passengers had the highest average fares (\$365). Airports with 3 to 4 million originating passengers had the lowest average fares of any group (\$319) (Figure 2, Table 6).

Tables listing the airports by group can be found on the [BTS Air Fare web page](#).

For additional data, see [Top 100 Airports](#) or [All Airports](#). Since average fares are based on the [Origin and Destination Survey](#) 10 percent ticket sample, averages for airports with smaller samples may be less reliable. Fares for Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico airports are not included in rankings but are available on the web page. First-quarter 2016 average fare data will be released July 26.

**Table 1. 4th Quarter Average Fare 1995-2015, Adjusted for Inflation**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Average Fare in constant 2015 dollars (\$)</b>	<b>Year-to-Year Percent Change in Average Fare (4Q to 4Q) (%)</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent Change in Average Fare (4Q 1995 to 4Q of each year) (%)</b>
<b>1995</b>	443		
<b>1996</b>	415	-6.4	-6.4
<b>1997</b>	430	3.7	-2.9
<b>1998</b>	456	6.0	2.9
<b>1999</b>	447	-2.1	0.8
<b>2000</b>	462	3.5	4.3
<b>2001</b>	401	-13.2	-9.5
<b>2002</b>	404	0.6	-8.9
<b>2003</b>	405	0.4	-8.6
<b>2004</b>	369	-8.8	-16.7
<b>2005</b>	378	2.4	-14.7
<b>2006</b>	373	-1.4	-15.9
<b>2007</b>	371	-0.4	-16.3
<b>2008</b>	389	4.7	-12.4
<b>2009</b>	350	-9.9	-21.0
<b>2010</b>	361	3.1	-18.5
<b>2011</b>	386	6.9	-12.9
<b>2012</b>	386	-0.2	-13.1
<b>2013</b>	388	0.6	-12.6
<b>2014</b>	396	2.0	-10.8
<b>2015</b>	363	-8.3	-18.2

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [BTS Air Fares](#) and [Origin and Destination Survey](#)

Note: Percent change based on unrounded numbers

**Table 1A. Passenger Airline Revenue from Fares 1990-2015**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Revenue from Passenger Fares as Percent of Total Scheduled Passenger Airline Operating Revenue* (%)</b>
<b>1990</b>	88.5
<b>1995</b>	87.6
<b>2000</b>	88.9
<b>2001</b>	87.8
<b>2002</b>	87.1
<b>2003</b>	84.9
<b>2004</b>	80.6
<b>2005</b>	78.4
<b>2006</b>	77.6
<b>2007</b>	77.7
<b>2008</b>	75.9
<b>2009</b>	73.7
<b>2010</b>	74.8
<b>2011</b>	74.6
<b>2012</b>	74.1
<b>2013</b>	74.6
<b>2014</b>	74.8
<b>2015 (1Q)</b>	74.6
<b>2015 (2Q)</b>	75.7
<b>2015 (3Q)</b>	75.0

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, P-12

\* From [Schedule P-12](#): Passenger Revenue (Fares) (Acct 3901) as a percentage of Total Operating Revenues (4999).

**Table 2. Inflation-Adjusted Average Domestic Air Fares: Percent Changes to 2015  
by Year since 1995**  
(4th Quarter to 4th Quarter for fares)

Since 4th Quarter of ...	Duration in Years	Average Fare in constant 2015 dollars (\$)	Percent Change in Average Fare to 4th Quarter 2015 (%)
<b>2015</b>		363	
<b>2014</b>	1	396	-8.3
<b>2013</b>	2	388	2.0
<b>2012</b>	3	386	2.6
<b>2011</b>	4	386	2.4
<b>2010</b>	5	361	9.5
<b>2009</b>	6	350	12.9
<b>2008</b>	7	389	1.8
<b>2007</b>	8	371	6.5
<b>2006</b>	9	373	6.1
<b>2005</b>	10	378	4.6
<b>2004</b>	11	369	7.0
<b>2003</b>	12	405	-2.4
<b>2002</b>	13	404	-2.1
<b>2001</b>	14	401	-1.4
<b>2000</b>	15	462	-14.4
<b>1999</b>	16	447	-11.5
<b>1998</b>	17	456	-13.3
<b>1997</b>	18	430	-8.1
<b>1996</b>	19	415	-4.7
<b>1995</b>	20	443	-10.8

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [BTS Air Fares](#) and [Origin and Destination Survey](#)

**Table 3. Inflation-Adjusted Average Domestic Airline Fares by Quarter**  
Average Fare and Percent Change by Quarter

**Average Domestic Fare (2015\$)**

<b>Quarter/Year</b>	<b>Average Fare in constant 2015 dollars (\$)</b>	<b>Quarter-to-Quarter Percent Change in Average Fare (%)</b>
4Q 2013	388	-1.6
1Q 2014	383	-1.3
2Q 2014	393	2.6
3Q 2014	394	0.3
4Q 2014*	393	-0.3
1Q 2015*	388	-1.1
2Q 2015*	386	-0.6
3Q 2015*	372	-3.7
4Q 2015*	363	-2.5

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [BTS Air Fares](#) and [Origin and Destination Survey](#)

Note: Percent change based on unrounded numbers

\* Fares for the most recent four quarters are in current dollars, not adjusted for inflation.

**Table 4. Unadjusted Average Domestic Air Fares: Percent Changes to 2015 and the Inflation Rate\* by Year since 1995**

(4th Quarter to 4th Quarter for fares; December to December for inflation)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Average Fare in current dollars (\$)</b>	<b>Year-to-Year Percent Change in Average Fare (4Q to 4Q) (%)</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent Change in Average Fare (4Q 1995 to 4Q of each year) (%)</b>	<b>Inflation Rate Change to Dec 2015</b>
<b>1995</b>	288			
<b>1996</b>	278	-3.3	-3.3	0.7
<b>1997</b>	294	5.5	2.0	0.8
<b>1998</b>	316	7.7	9.9	2.3
<b>1999</b>	318	0.6	10.5	4.1
<b>2000</b>	340	7.0	18.2	7.1
<b>2001</b>	300	-11.8	4.2	8.7
<b>2002</b>	309	3.0	7.3	11.7
<b>2003</b>	316	2.2	9.7	11.8
<b>2004</b>	297	-5.9	3.3	16.4
<b>2005</b>	315	5.9	9.4	19.3
<b>2006</b>	318	1.1	10.6	23.4
<b>2007</b>	330	3.6	14.6	27.4
<b>2008</b>	345	4.7	20.0	29.8
<b>2009</b>	320	-7.4	11.1	32.9
<b>2010</b>	335	4.7	16.3	34.9
<b>2011</b>	368	10.0	28.0	39.5
<b>2012</b>	374	1.6	30.0	43.3
<b>2013</b>	382	2.1	32.8	45.6
<b>2014</b>	393	2.8	36.4	48.1
<b>2015</b>	363	-7.7	26.0	53.0

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [BTS Air Fares](#) and [Origin and Destination Survey](#)

Note: Percent change based on unrounded numbers

\* Rate calculated using Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index



**Table 5. Unadjusted Average Domestic Airline Fares by Quarter**  
Average Fare and Percent Change by Quarter

Average Domestic Fare (current\$)			
Quarter/Year	Average Fare in current dollars (\$)	Quarter-to-Quarter Percent Change in Average Fare (%)	
4Q 2013	382	-2.0	
1Q 2014	382	0.0	
2Q 2014	396	3.5	
3Q 2014	396	0.2	
4Q 2014	393	-0.9	
1Q 2015	388	-1.1	
2Q 2015	385	-0.8	
3Q 2015	372	-4.3	
4Q 2015	363	-5.9	

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [BTS Air Fares](#) and [Origin and Destination Survey](#)  
Note: Percent change based on unrounded numbers

**Table 6. Fares at Airports with 1,000,000+ Originating Passengers 4th Quarter 2015**  
Based on 4Q2015 U.S. Originating Domestic Passengers

Airport Groups based on 4Q 2015 Originating Passengers	Average Fare 4th Quarter 2015 (\$)	Percent of Total Passengers
5 million+	365	43
4-5 million	339	13
3-4 million	319	6
2-3 million	360	19
1-2 million	359	8
less than 1 million	363	11
<b>Average Fare at All Airports</b>	363	100

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [BTS Air Fares](#) and [Origin and Destination Survey](#)